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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 27, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal redeemer, the Father of mercies, You are our help in time of need. Lord, as we mourn the senseless tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Texas, guide us with Your grace.

Lord, sometimes prayers seem so useless. Yet in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, You told us to pray without ceasing. We lift our voices again to You. We pray because You have helped us in the past. We pray because You are our hope for the years to come. Strengthen us to pray and work until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Inspire our lawmakers to strive to become islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference. Lord, use our Senators to build a more safe nation and world.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 25, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, there is a plague—a plague—upon this Nation, a plague of gun violence that has taken over this country. Two weeks ago, that plague claimed the lives of 10 Black Americans who were

massacred in broad daylight while shopping at a grocery store in Buffalo. They were Black, and they were in a grocery store. That is the reason they were shot by an 18-year-old with an AR-15.

And then, yesterday, just 10 days after Buffalo, that plague struck again in Uvalde, TX, where 19—19—innocent children and 2 teachers were gunned down at Robb Elementary in the middle of the school day, just before the start of summer when these kids were looking forward to having such a wonderful time with their family and friends.

Gone. They are gone.

The shooter crashed his truck near the school, overpowered the police already at the scene, and reportedly began shooting inside a fourth grade classroom. Nineteen kids, two teachers, forever gone in the blink of an eye.

America's gun epidemic is unmatched by any of our peer nations in the world. No American is safe from it, and the American people are sick and tired of it. But we also have a problem—a big problem—here in the U.S. Senate—a big problem in the U.S. Senate. The problem in the Senate is simple: Too many Members on the other side of the aisle are disconnected from the suffering of the American people. Too many Members on that side care more about the NRA than they do about families who grieve victims of gun violence.

As I said, the American people are sick and tired of mass shootings. They are sick and tired about active shooter alerts. They are sick and tired of children—children: 9-year-olds, 10-year-

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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